

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 6685 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW
22 MAY

QUOTE

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PASS DR. WHITE, ADMINISTRATOR, NOAA, DOC, AND
ROBERT SCHONING, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, TBIO, SENV, OCON, UR

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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: DISCUSSIONS HELD

ON WHALING ISSUES MAY 16-17

REF: STATE 77344

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR TRUEHEART AND COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVES ARON AND FOX MET WITH OFFICIALS OF GOJ AND JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY MAY 16-17. MEETINGS FRUITFUL IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. JAPANESE APPRISED OF GROWING PROTECTIONIST MOVEMENT IN US AND URGENT NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON WHALING ISSUE AT JUNE MEETING OF IWC. JAPAN PROMISED TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO US PROPOSAL ON 50 PERCENT MORATORIUM BUT PROPOSAL NOT EXPECTED TO BE ACCEPTED BY JAPAN. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO SUPPORT STRENGTHENING OF IWC AND TO KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN AT NEXT COMMISSION MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM TRUEHEART, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, DR. WILLIAM ARON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), DOC, MRS. PRUDENCE FOX, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NOAA, AND REFFISHATT MET WITH GOJ AND JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY OFFICIALS MAY 16-17.

2. FIRST MEETING HELD MAY 16 WITH GOJ OFFICIALS FROM FONOFF AND FISHERIES AGENCY. JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES HEADED BY SEIYA NISHIDA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF. SECOND MEETING, WHICH DEALT IN GREATER DETAIL WITH MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE, HELD WITH IWAO FUJITA, JAPANESE COMMISSIONER, IWC, AND JUNIO YONEZAWA, ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER, FROM FISHERIES AGENCY. THIRD MEETING HELD WITH JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY OFFICIALS.

3. AT FIRST TWO MEETINGS, US REPS CAREFULLY DESCRIBED OBJECTIVES OF THEIR VISIT, PROBLEMS CREATED BY OBJECTIONS RAISED BY JAPAN AND USSR TO CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF IWC; GROWING PUBLIC MOVEMENT IN US CONDEMNING JAPANESE WHALING ACTIVITIES; AND INCREASING PUBLIC PRESSURE TO IMPLEMENT PELLY AMENDMENT. ARON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLAINED STATUS OF PROJECT JONAH, INDICATING THAT IT WAS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION AND WAS ACTING INDEPENDENTLY OF USG. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT POSITIONS TAKEN BY JAPAN AND USSR HAD RESULTED IN GROWING INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT PROVIDED TO PROTECTIONIST MOVEMENT BY CONSERVATIVE AND RESPECTABLE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS. UNLESS AGREEMENT IS REACHED AT NEXT IWC MEETING, HE SAID, WHALING ISSUE MAY WELL BE FURTHER BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION TO ACTUAL

PROBLEM.

4. JAPANESE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND FELT THAT PROBLEM SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND HANDLED WITHIN IWC FRAMEWORK. AT BOTH MEETINGS JAPANESE STRESSED THAT WHALING WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO JAPAN BECAUSE OF USE OF WHALE MEAT AS FOOD. IT WAS NOT JAPAN'S INTENTION TO IGNORE CLAIMS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, THEY ASSERTED, BUT RATHER TO SEEK REASONABLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

5. FUJITA STATED THAT DEMAND FOR TOTAL MORATORIM ON WHALING WAS EXTREME AND UNREASONABLE. JAPAN WOULD NOT, IN PRINCIPLE, OBJECT TO MORATORIUM IF IT COULD BE JUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, IWC HAD REJECTED IT FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE YEARS, AND HE DID NOT CONSIDER US POSITION ON TOTAL MORATORIUM REASONABLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE INQUIRED WHETHER WE BELIEVED PROPOSAL FOR MORATORIM WOULD PASS AT NEXT MEETING. ARON REPLIED HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC IT WOULD.

6. ARON RAISED POSSIBLE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT WHALING BE STOPPED WHEN STOCKS FELL BELOW 50 PERCENT LEVEL OF ORIGINAL VIRGIN STOCK. THIS WOULD, IN ESSENCE, MEAN THAT WHALING FOR FIN WHALES WOULD CEASE SINCE THIS RESOURCE WAS ONLY 20-25 PERCENT OF ITS ORIGINAL SIZE, CERTAIN STOCKS OF SPERM WHALES COULD CONTINUE TO BE FISHED, DEPENDING ON ASSESSMENTS TO BE MADE, AND FISHERY FOR MINKE WHALES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE SINCE IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A VIRGIN STOCK. FUJITA STATED JAPAN WOULD NEED TIME TO STUDY PROPOSAL BUT COMMENTED THAT HIS INITIAL IMPRESSION WAS PROPOSAL APPEARED RATHER HARSH. FUJITA'S REACTION INDICATED GOJ WOULD NOT ACCEPT PROPOSAL.

7. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSAL ON NEED TO STRENGTHEN IWC, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JAPANESE STATED THEY HAD NOT TAKEN A QTE TOO POSITIVE ATTITUDE UNQTE AT LAST IWC MEETING SINCE THAT ISSUE WAS CLOUDED BY MORATORIUM ISSUE. FUJITA ADDED JAPAN NOT PLEASED WITH CONDUCT OF IWC MEETINGS SINCE AMPLE TIME NOT AVAILABLE TO PERMIT A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. ARON INDICATED VERY PURPOSE OF PRESENT VISIT BY US SIDE WAS TO EXCHANGE VIWS SO THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS WOULD NOT OCCUR AND CONFRONTATIONS COULD BE AVOIDED. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE DURING COURSE OF NEXT MEETING. JAPANESE ALSO AGREED TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN THE IWC.

8. JAPANESE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT TRENDS WHEREIN SCIENTISTS WHO LACK FULL COMPETENCE ARE BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN SCIENTIFIC DELIBERATIONS OF IWC. ARON

ELABORATED ON EFFORTS ON PART OF USG TO SEEK STRONGEST SCIENTIFIC REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING.

9. ON MAY 17, ARON, FOX AND REGFISHATT MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO SEEK BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF VIEWS OF EACH SIDE. MEETING WAS USEFUL IN SERVING TO CLARIFY USG'S RELATION TO US PROTECTIONIST MOVEMENT AND TO CLARIFY OTHER PROBLEMS. IT WAS INDICATED AT MEETING THAT JAPANESE WHALING FLEET WAS NOT ABLE TO REACH ITS FIN WHALE QUOTA DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

10. ALL DISCUSSIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. MEETINGS WERE HELPFUL IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND TO CLARIFY SOME MISAUNDERSTANDINGS AND MIS-APPREHENSIONS HELD BY JAPANESE SIDE, E.G. RELATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC PROTECTIONIST MOVEMENT AND USG. NO COMMITMENTS WERE MADE AND EACH SIDE AGREED TO CONSIDER FULLY VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER SIDE AND ON NEED TO REACH SOLUTION AT FORTHCOMING IWC MEETING.
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